

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/494,940

Examiner

John M. Villecco

Applicant(s)

HARA ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on December 30, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4,5,18-20 and 28-30 (renumbered claims 1-8).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James LaBarre on February 2, 2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:
 - In line 21 of claim 18, please change the phrase "selected form among" to – selected from among –.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 4, 5, 18-20, and 28-30 (renumbered claims 1-8) are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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Regarding *claims 4 and 5*, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest the method of calculating the control exposure time and the number of image taking operations.

As for *claim 18*, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a memory for storing the compressed image data of the plurality of images and data of the quantity of movement corresponding thereto at least until the time when all of the plurality of images have been taken, wherein one method of data compression is selected from among a plurality of compression methods which have mutually different compression speeds, in accordance with the automatically determined number of image taking operations.

With regard to *claim 20*, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a camera system for memorizing image data of a plurality of images to be composited into a single image in which one of among said plurality of images is designated as a standard image.....a controller for compressing image data and form temporarily storing the compressed image data and the standard image data into a memory region, wherein the controller selects a compression ratio and/or method of the data compression for the plurality of images except said standard image, corresponding to a condition when the image data are taken.

As for *claim 28*, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the correcting of the image shake around the two axes perpendicular to the optical axis are executed by a software process and the rotating of the image data around the optical axis is performed by a hardware process.

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With regard to *claim 29*, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the rotation shakes are corrected by affine conversion at the same time.

Regarding *claim 30*, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the region from which the image data are read out is gradually enlarged corresponding to the increase of the number of image taking operations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Villecco whose telephone number is (571) 272-7319. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John M. Villecco
February 2, 2006



NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER